1989 FARM FATALITIES

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
FARM SAFETY PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 1990

Although fatal farm accidents in Alberta began a downward trend during the second half of the 1980's, Alberta Agriculture's Farm Safety Program recorded its first child fatality-free year in 1989.

Thirteen people died from farm accidents in 1989, one more than in 1988; however, the youngest person killed was 23 years old. A staggering 77 per cent of the fatal accidents involved persons 45 years and older.

Table 1 shows the number of farm fatalities from 1980 to 1989.

TABLE 1

FARM FATALITIES, 1980 - 1989

YEAR	NUMBER	% CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR
1980	28	12
1981	32	14
1982	27	-16
1983	27	0
1984	25	- 7
1985	29	16
1986	13	-55
1987	18	38
1988	12	-33
1989	13	8
	224	

SOURCE: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and Alberta Department of Transportation.

TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Farm machinery continues to be the leading agent involved in accidental deaths. Sixty-seven per cent of the accidents (9 cases) involved farm machinery. Tractors alone claimed six lives (46%).

AGE OF VICTIM

There were no children (under 18 years) killed in 1989. Seventy-seven per cent (10) of all deaths happened to persons 45 years and over.

LOCATION OF ACCIDENT

Of the 13 deaths, three happened on roadways; three in farm buildings and structures (corral, pen, grain bin); four in farm fields; two in farm yards; and one in a dugout.

MONTH OF ACCIDENT

September recorded the highest number of deaths (3), followed by March, August, October and December, each with two deaths. These five months accounted for 85 per cent of all fatalities.

ACTIVITY OF VICTIM

Five of the victims (38%) were operating tractors and balers. Two were loading bales. Others were repairing swather, attending cow, cleaning bin, transporting grain bin, and clearing snow from a dugout.

HOW ACCIDENT OCCURRED

Tractor rollovers resulted in three deaths. Three others were killed when they got caught in an auger, baler and a power-take-off. Two were crushed to death by a tractor and a bull. Other causes of deaths were trampling by cow, electrocution, drowning, being caught between a tractor and a ditch digger and run over by tractor.

SUMMARY

There has been a dramatic decrease in the number of farm fatalities in the second half of the 1980's; particularly among the children. The Farm Safety Program recorded its first child fatality-free year in 1989.

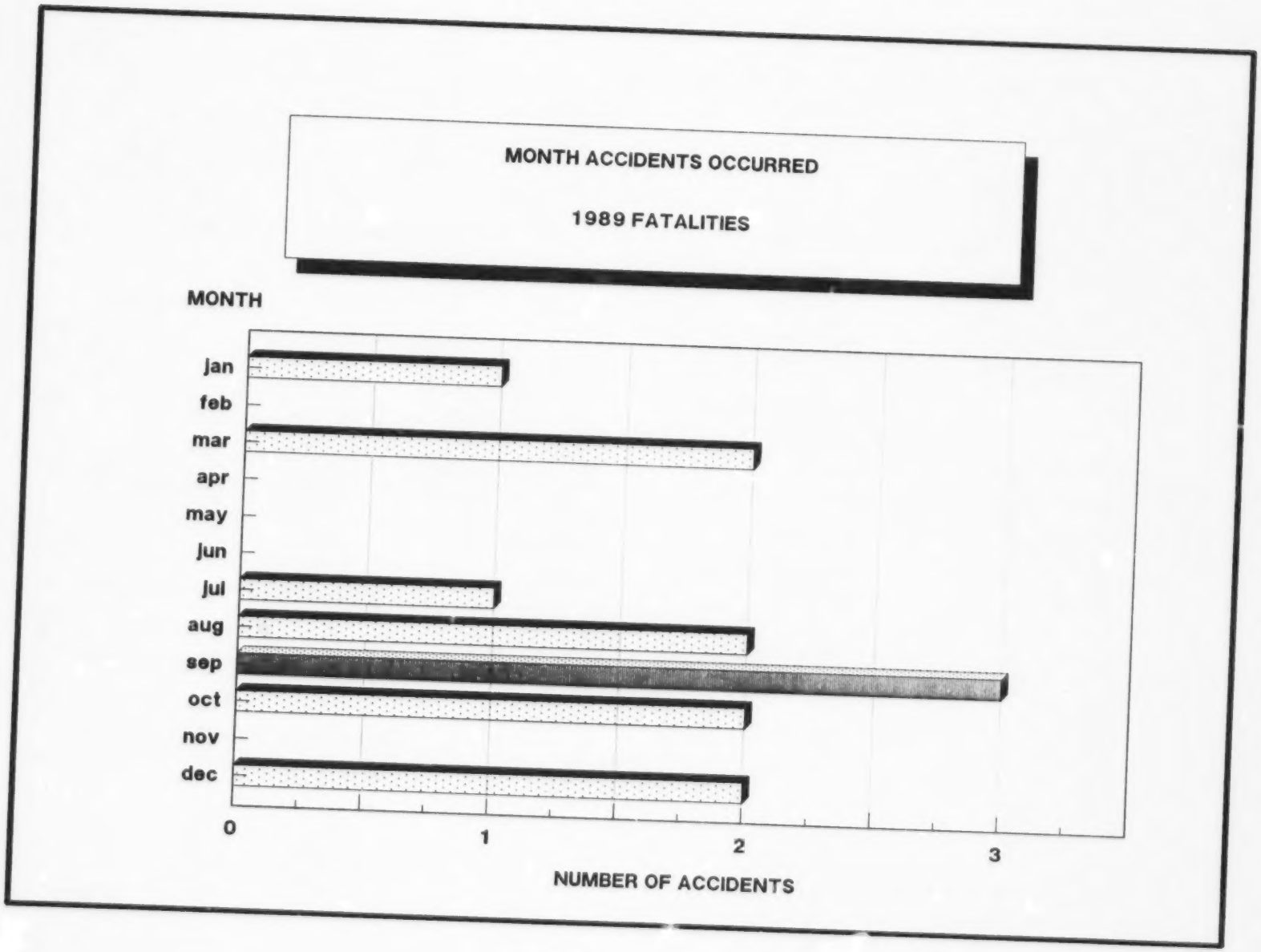
It is apparent that the safety programs aimed at the children by Alberta Agriculture and the private sector have been beneficial.

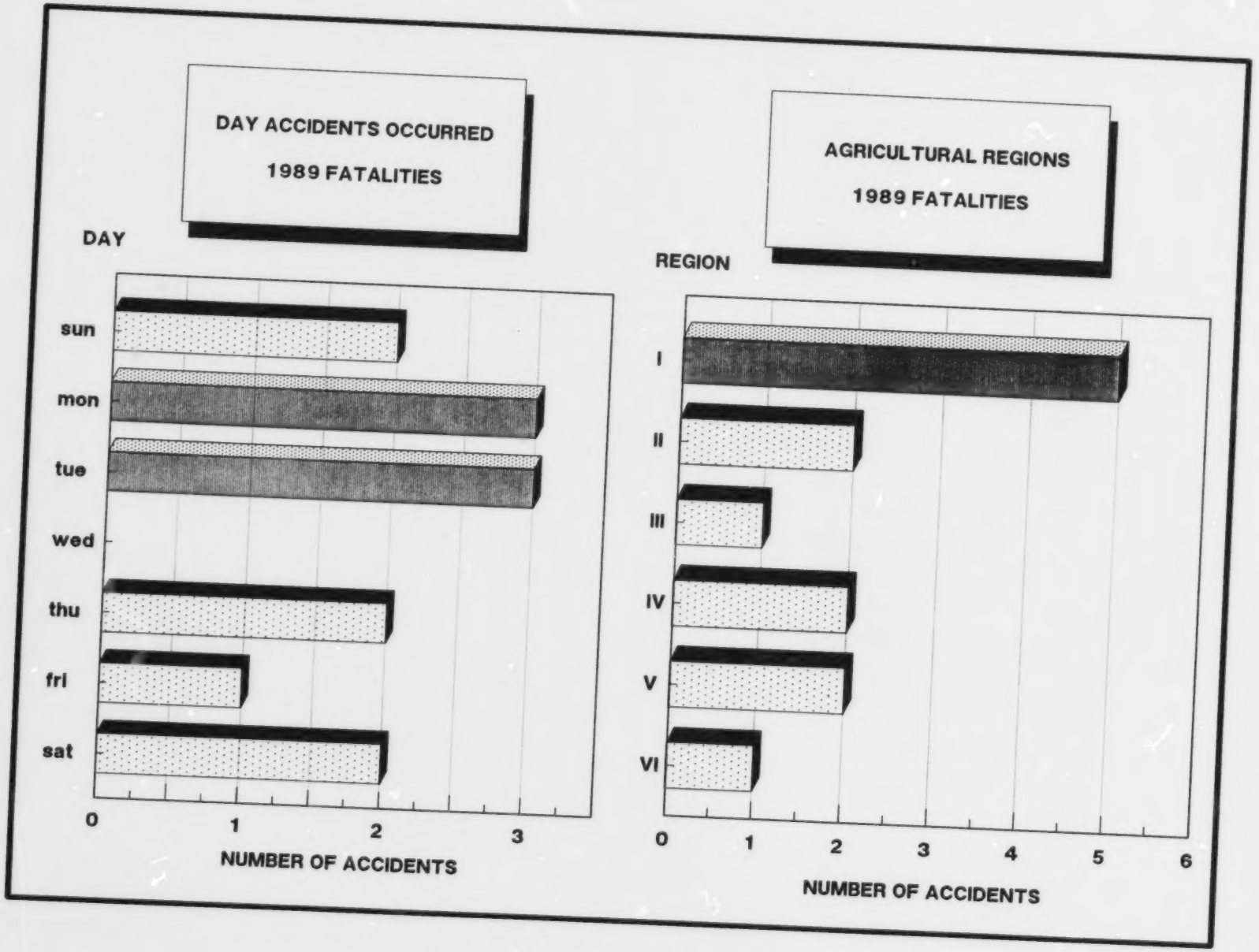
SUMMARY

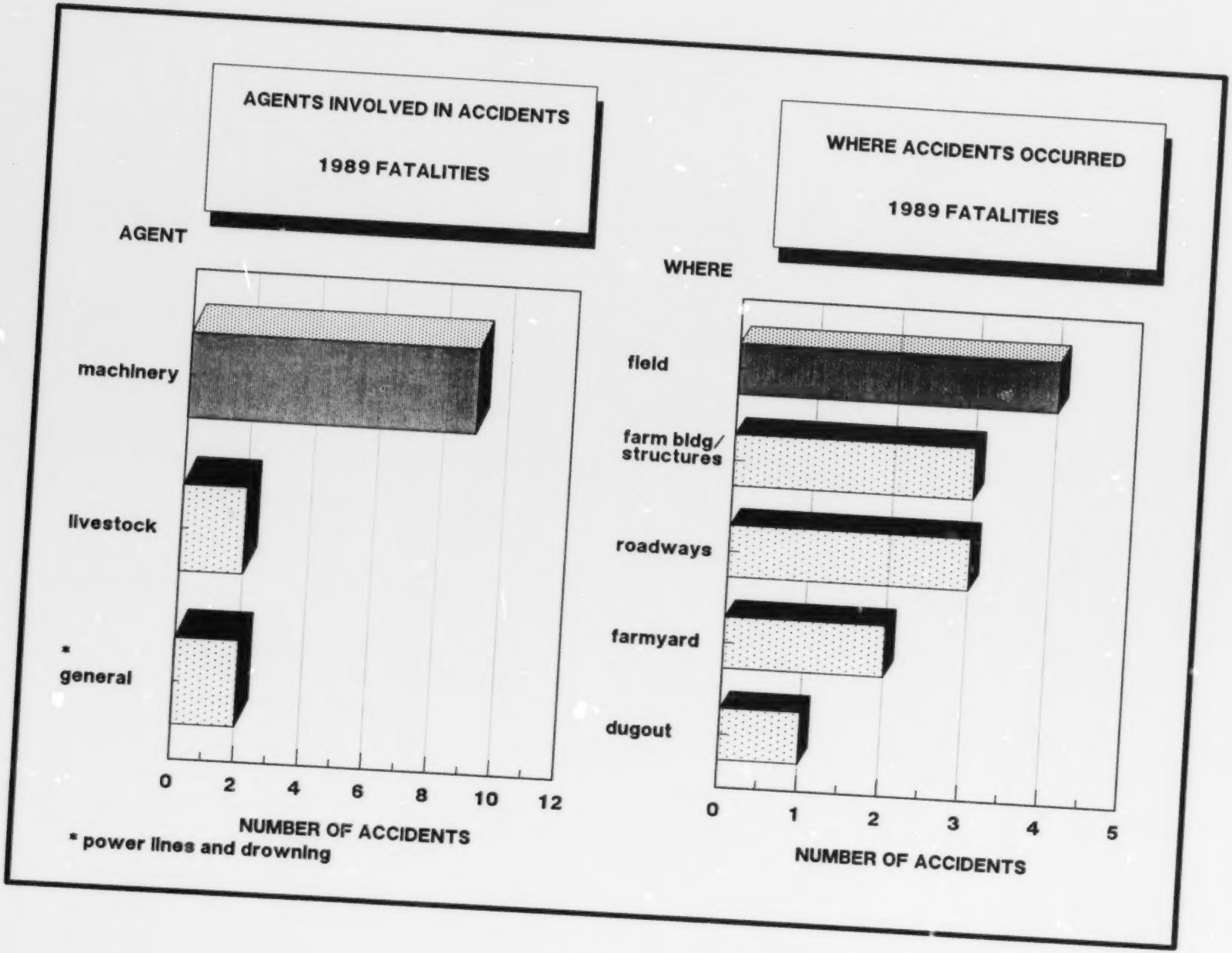
1989 FARM FATALITIES

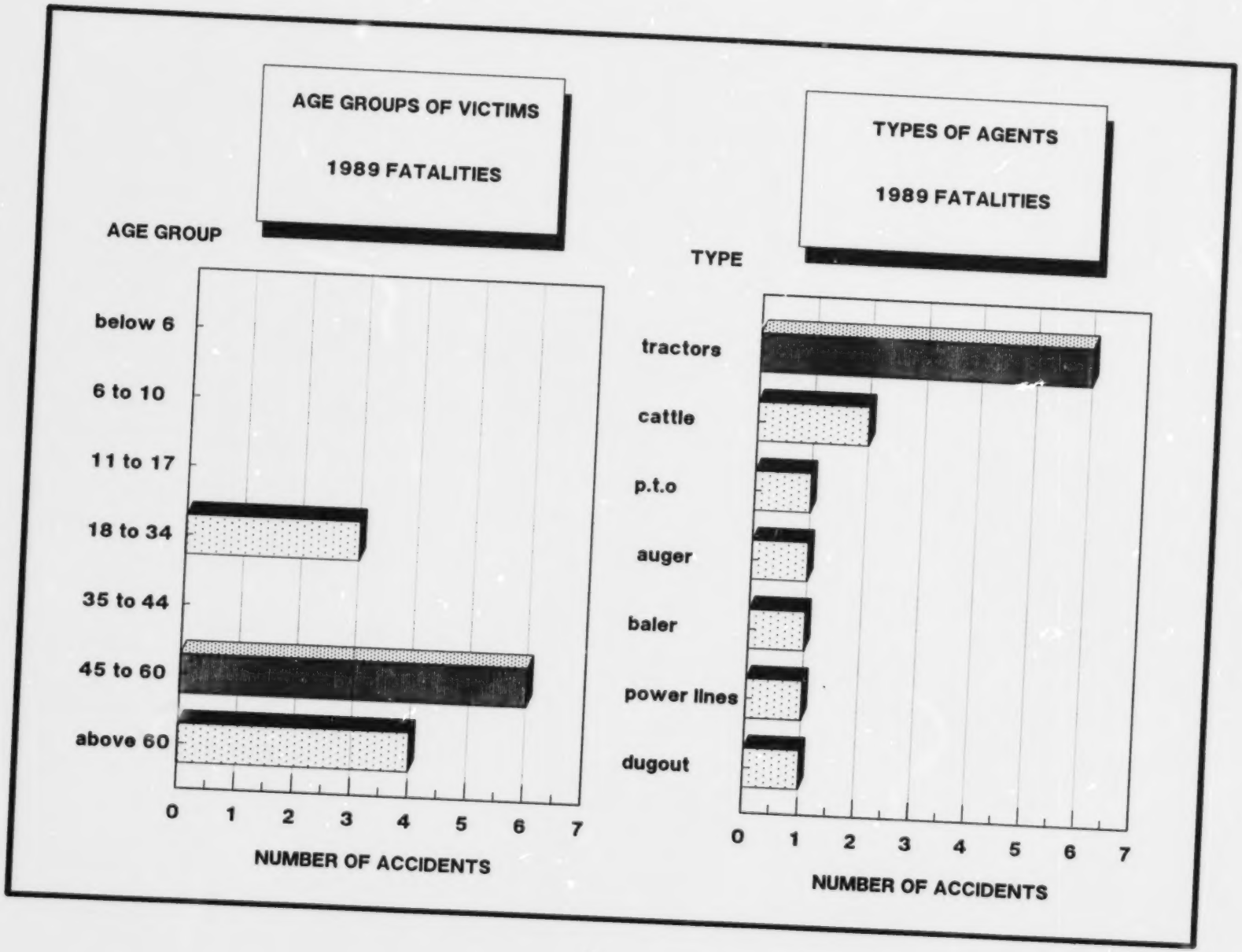
DATE	REGION	AGENT	SEX	AGE	ACTIVITY	HOW	WHERE
Jan 31	5	Tractor	M	24	Loading bales	Crushing	Farmyard
Mar 13	2	Auger	M	45	Cleaning bin	Caught in	Grain bin
Mar 27	1	Cow	M	60	Attending cow	Trampled	Corral
Jul 28	3	Tractor	M	65	Loading bales	Rollover	Field
Aug 8	2	Tractor	M	63	Operating	Rollover	Roadway
Aug 31	5	Bull	M	65	Not given	Crushing	Pen
Sep 10	1	PTO	M	54	Repair swather	Caught in	Farmyard
Sep 14	4	Baler	M	26	Operating	Caught in	Field
Sep 19	6	Power lines	M	23	Transport bin	Electrocution	Roadway
Oct 1	1	Tractor	M	60	Operating	Caught bet.	Field
Oct 7	1	Tractor	M	48	Operating	Rollover	Roadway
Dec 11	1	Tractor	M	45	Operating	Run over	Field
Dec 16	4	Dugout	M	73	Clearing snow	Drowning	Dugout

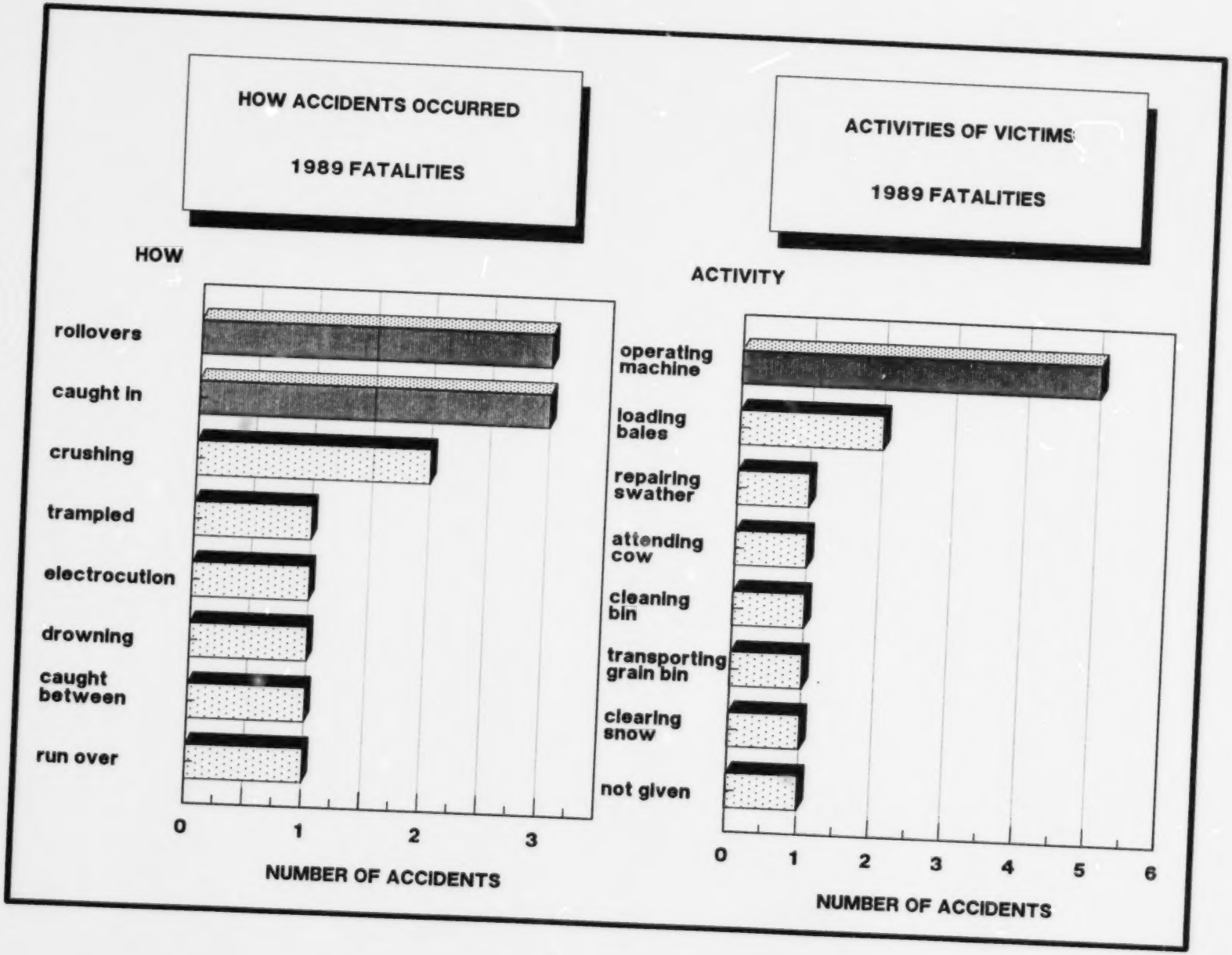
Source: Chief Medical Examiner and Alberta Transportation


MONTH ACCIDENTS OCCURRED
1989 FATALITIES
MONTH
jan
feb
mar
apr
may
jun
jul
aug
sep
oct
nov
dec
0
1
2
3
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS


DAY ACCIDENTS OCCURRED
1989 FATALITIES
DAY
sun
mon
tue
wed
thu
fri
sat
0
1
2
3
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS
AGRICULTURAL REGIONS
1989 FATALITIES
REGION
I
II
III
IV
V
VI
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS


AGENTS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS
1989 FATALITIES
AGENT
machinery
livestock
* general
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS
* power lines and drowning
WHERE ACCIDENTS OCCURRED
1989 FATALITIES
WHERE
field
farm bldg/ structures
roadways
farmyard
dugout
0
1
2
3
4
5
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS


AGE GROUPS OF VICTIMS
1989 FATALITIES
AGE GROUP
below 6
6 to 10
11 to 17
18 to 34
35 to 44
45 to 60
above 60
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS
TYPES OF AGENTS
1989 FATALITIES
TYPE
tractors
cattle
p.t.o
auger
baler
power lines
dugout
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS


HOW ACCIDENTS OCCURRED
1989 FATALITIES
HOW
rollovers
caught in
crushing
trampled
electrocution
drowning
caught between
run over
0
1
2
3
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS
ACTIVITIES OF VICTIMS
1989 FATALITIES
ACTIVITY
operating machine
loading bales
repairing swather
attending cow
cleaning bin
transporting grain bin
clearing snow
not given
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS